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HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS
New York, 15-26 August 1994

LETTER DATED 4 JUNE 1994 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE

The document prepared by the delegation of the Russian Federation and enclosed with this letter proposes a definition of the term "adjacent area" in relation to the purposes of the Conference.

The Russian delegation would consider it advisable to arrive at a uniform interpretation of this term by participants in the Conference, and would therefore be grateful if this document could be circulated as an addendum to document A/CONF.164/L.32 of 27 July 1993.

(Signed) V. K. ZILANOV
Chairman of the delegation of the
Russian Federation

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ANNEX

Definition of the term "Adjacent area" in relation to the purposes of the Conference

The proposal by the delegation of the Russian Federation which was circulated under the title "Conceptual approach to the conservation of straddling fish stocks by improving their management" described five main types of straddling fish stocks. For purposes of a pragmatic approach to drawing up the relevant final documents and on the basis of the Conference's mandate, the view was expressed that it would be advisable to focus on consideration of the first two types of stocks:

- Stocks which basically are constituted in and inhabit the 200-mile economic zone (of one or more States) and only at certain periods of their life-cycle migrate (actively or passively) beyond the limits of the 200-mile economic zone into the area of the high seas adjacent to it;

- Stocks in enclosed or semi-enclosed seas, in which as a rule there is in the central part a high-seas area adjacent to the 200-mile exclusive economic zone of a coastal State or States and surrounded on all sides by the 200-mile exclusive economic zone(s) of a coastal State or States, through which fish stocks migrate in transit, passing through it at various periods of their life-cycle.

The first type in fact includes two subtypes:

- Stocks whose natural habitat area includes both the 200-mile exclusive economic zone (more or less) of a coastal State or States (the larger part of the stock's habitat area) and an area of the high seas (the smaller part of the stock's area);

- Stocks which reproduce and spend the greater part of their life-cycle (spawning, drifting of eggs and larvae, growth of young fish, migration, etc.) within the 200-mile exclusive economic zone of a coastal State or States and which in some cases (under the influence of climatic conditions or the need to extend their stock area as a result of an increase in numbers) may temporarily migrate beyond the outer limit of the 200-mile exclusive economic zone into the area of the high seas adjacent to it.

Information is available to the effect that the breadth of the high seas area adjacent to the outer limit of the 200-mile exclusive economic zones which includes part of the stock area or through which the migration routes of a transboundary stock pass generally extends seawards for 20-70 nautical miles.

In our opinion, stocks in enclosed and semi-enclosed seas merit a special approach.

It is desirable here to focus on the definition of the term "adjacent area" in relation to the above two subtypes of the first type:

"Adjacent area" means the high seas area located beyond the limits of the outer boundary of the national jurisdiction of a coastal State or States and adjacent to it which represents the smaller part of the habitat area of a straddling stock or stocks or through which the active or passive migration routes of a straddling stock or stocks pass on leaving the zone of national jurisdiction of the coastal State or States and on returning to it at given periods of the life-cycle of the stock in question.